

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I have been in this House for less than a year, not a very long time, but it is long enough to know that this is real reform.

In the first 90 days after I was elected to this House, I received 70, that is 7-0, requests for various earmarks. A whole lot of those, frankly, were not appropriate; whether there wasn't a Federal nexus, whether there wasn't a public benefit, for whatever reason, they weren't appropriate.

Now, I submitted seven of those 70 for consideration by the Appropriations Committee, and I have made very public what those seven were. Because if we are going to spend taxpayer money, we ought to be able to justify it and to stand behind what we are doing, why we are doing it, and who is doing it. And that is what this does. It simply says if we are going to spend the taxpayers' money in this way, and there is nothing inappropriate if there is a Federal nexus, et cetera, about Members spending money on things that have a Federal nexus and are appropriate and have a public good in their district. There is nothing wrong with that process. But you should be able to shine the light of day on it, to stand behind it, to say this is what I am doing and this is why I am doing it and this is who is doing it. And that is what this does.

Now, you could sit there as some of our friends on the other side of the aisle want to do and try to indicate everything that is inappropriate. But isn't it better if we just simply say, here it is and here is the name, so that the person doing it, if they know that there is anything there, then they won't come forward with it.

Now, I have to tell you this is unlikely to save any money, unlikely to reduce spending, but what it will do is I think it will add greatly to what we do spend being spent better.